the vacancies reserved for the reserved categories.

Memorandum regarding Khadi Industry

*174. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI JOY NADUKKARA:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a delegation of persons connected with Khadi Industry has submitted a memorandum during a recent meeting with Government;

(b) if so, the salient features of this memorandum;

(c) whether it is also a fact that a demand has also been made to Government to withdraw the order by which rebate given by Government on the sale of Khadi, has been stopped;

(d) if so, whether Government have decided to consider this demand;

(e) if so, decision taken in this regard; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The issues raised in the memorandum relate to continuance of rebate scheme for Khadi, allocation of additional Rs. 100 crores to clear the back-log of rebate claims pending for payment with KVIC, reduction in the rate of interest on loans for Village Industry projects and liberal budgetary support for the KVI sector.

(c) to (f) The rebate scheme for Khadi has been continued for the year 1996-97.

Privatisation of Iron Ore Mines

*175. SHRI PARAG CHALIHA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:'

(a) the stand of Government on privatisation of iron ore mines of Bailadila owned by NDMC in particular and others in general;

(b) whether Government are considering any proposal for the exploration, mining and industrial use of different ore deposits of North East in general and Assam in particular;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) As per National Mineral Policy, 1993 iron ore mining was completely opened up for the private sector. Integrated steel plants of SAIL, IISCO and TISCO have captive iron ore mines. Emerging steel majors have also been seeking iron ore deposits for captive mining.

The Government accorded approval to the National Mineral Development Corporation Limited (NMDC) vide its letter dated 12/13.6.95 for development of Bailadila iron ore deposit 11-B in the joint venture. Based on the Government approval, N.M.D.C. had submitted its application for transfer of 11-B mining lease in favour of the joint venture company. The Government of Madhya Pradesh have recommended the proposal vide their letter dated 6.1.96 and have sought prior approval of the Central Government from the Ministry of Mines, as required under the provisions of the MMRD Act, 1957, for transfer of mining lease of Bailadila deposit 11-B in favour of the Joint Venture Company. The Ministry of Mines have approved the proposal on 21st March, 1996 subject to observance of the provisions of the MMRD Act, 1957 and Mineral Concession Rules, 1960 and also that "the State Government, the proposed joint venture company, i.e. Bailadila Mineral Development Company Limited and NMDC should arrive at a uniform and agreed set of conditions for the